

12

REPORT

OF

THE DIRECTORS OF THE

MONTROSE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,

INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1ST JUNE, 1857.

INSTITUTED 1782.

MONTROSE :
PRINTED BY ALEXANDER RODGERS,
62 HIGH STREET.

MDCCCLVII.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b3031589x>

LIST OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM, &c.

JUNE, 1857.

- The PROVOST and ELDEST BAILIE of MONTROSE.
 The FIRST and SECOND MINISTER of the Parish of Montrose.
- 5 PATRICK ARKLEY, Esq. of Dunninald.
 DAVID SCOTT, Esq. of Brotherton.
 THOMAS CARNEGIE, Esq. of Craigo.
 W. MACDONALD MACDONALD, Esq. of Rossie.
 JAMES CARNEGIE, Earl of Southesk.
- 10 WILLIAM FORSYTH GRANT, Esq. of Ecclesgreig.
 Sir JAMES CAMPBELL of Stricathro.
 ALEXANDER PORTEOUS, Esq. of Lauriston.
 THOMAS RENNY TAILYOUR, Esq. of Newmanswalls.
 JOHN DUNCAN, Esq. of Sunnyside and Parkhill.
- 15 DAVID LYALL, Esq. of Gallery.
 The Rev. JOHN EADIE, Minister of Dun.
- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | THOMAS HILL, | do. Logie Pert. |
| | ROBERT MITCHELL, | do. Craig. |
| | THOMAS MACINTOSH, | do. St. Cyrus. |
| 20 | JAMES HAY, | do. Lunan. |
| | WILLIAM NIXON, | do. St. John's, Montrose. |
| | PATRICK CUSHNIE, | do. Scots Episcopal Church, do. |
| | WILLIAM MACDERMOTT, | do. St. Peter's Episcopal Chapel, do. |
| | JAMES DODDS, | do. Melville Church, do. |
| 25 | JOHN LISTER, | do. Free St. George's, do. |
- Messrs. JOHN ABERDEIN, Montrose.
- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----|
| | WILLIAM JAMESON, | do. |
| | ROBERT MILLAR, | do. |
| | ARCHIBALD FOOTE, | do. |
| 30 | Captain ARCH. MACNIELL, | do. |
- Messrs. GEORGE SMART, do.
- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| | ROBERT BURNES, | do. |
| | DAVID MACKIE, | do. |
| | ALEXANDER COWIE, | do. |
| 35 | DAVID WALKER, | do. |
| | THOMAS BARCLAY, | do. |
| | ROBERT WALKER, | do. |
| | JAMES SMITH, R.N., | do. |
| | JAMES M. PATON, | do. |
| 40 | FRANCIS B. PATON, | do. |
| | ROBERT COWIE, | do. |
| | ROBERT SMART, | do. |
| | THOMAS NAPIER, | do. |
| | JOHN BOYD, | do. |
| 45 | C. H. MILLAR, | do. |
| | WILLIAM BEATTIE, | do. |
| | JOHN GORDON, | do. |
| | DAVID MITCHELL, | do. |
| | CHARLES BIRNIE, | do. |
| 50 | FRANCIS ABERDEIN, | do. |
- DAVID HILL, & GEORGE C. CHALMERS, Bankers, Joint-Treasurers.
 JAMES GILCHRIST, M.D., Medical Superintendent.
 JAMES NIDDRIE, Master.
 Mrs. WRIGHT, Matron.

*Annual General Meeting 2d Tuesday of June; Monthly Meeting 1st Tuesday
 of each Month, at 12 o'clock noon.*

ADAM BURNES, *Secretary.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF ASYLUM.

PROVOST MACKIE.

MESSRS. ROBERT SMART.

WILLIAM BEATTIE.

DAVID WALKER.

C. H. MILLAR.

Provost MACKIE, *Convener.*

INFIRMARY COMMITTEE.

MESSRS. ROBERT MILLAR.

ALEXANDER COWIE.

JOHN GORDON.

REV. WILLIAM MACDERMOTT.

REV. JAMES DODDS.

Mr. MILLAR, *Convener.*

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Abstract of Treasurer's Accounts for the Year ending 1st June, 1857.

<i>Charge.</i>				<i>Discharge.</i>			
Interest Received	...	...	£252 19 1	Paid for Furniture and Repairs	...	...	£292 11 5
Labour by Immates, deducting Gratuities	...	...	21 0 0	" Deterioration, Feu Duty, Taxes, and Inci-	...	...
Lunatic Boarders, received	...	...	5053 6 5	dents	...	...	415 0 0
Growing Crop account	...	...	4 18 0	Land Rents, Taxes, and Incidents	...	...	212 14 3
Produce of Pigs sold and used in house	...	...	84 13 5	" Salaries and Servants' Wages	...	...	839 15 6
				" House Expenses for Provisions, &c.	...	...	3047 5 6
				" Subscription in aid of Infirmary	...	...	150 0 0
				Surplus for bygone year	...	...	459 10 3
			<u>£5416 16 11</u>				<u>£5416 16 11</u>

Montrose, 1st June, 1857.

(Errors Excepted.)

DAVID HILL, *Treasurer.*

INFERMARY.

Abstract of the Treasurer's Accounts for the Year ending 1st June, 1857.

<i>Charge.</i>				<i>Discharge.</i>			
Interest Received	...	...	£92 16 9	Paid for Furniture and Repairs	...	...	£27 15 1
Annual Donations	...	£315 13 9		Feu Duty, Taxes, and Incidents	...	...	23 11 9
Sum voted from funds of Lunatic Asylum	150 0 0			Salaries and Servants' Wages	...	...	125 15 0
				House Expenses	...	...	426 17 7
Board of Patients	...	...	465 13 9				
Loss for bygone year	...	...	25 6 6				
			20 2 5				
			<u>£603 19 5</u>				<u>603 19 5</u>

Montrose, 1st June, 1857.

(Errors Excepted.)

DAVID HILL, *Treasurer.*

ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM, MONTROSE.

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT,

For the Year ending 1st June, 1857.

TABLE SHEWING THE GENERAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

	Ad- mitted.		Cured.		Im- proved.		Unim- proved.		Dead.		Under Treatment.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
1856													
May 31											100	130	230
June 30	3	2			1				1		101	132	233
July 31	4	5	1			1			3		101	136	237
August 31	5	6	1	1		1				1	105	139	244
September 30.....	4	8	2	7							107	140	247
October 31	4	3	3	2			1		3		104	141	245
November 30	2	3		3		1			1	1	105	139	244
December 31	5	7		1	2	1	1	1		2	107	141	248
1857													
January 31.....	2	3	6	8	1		2		2	1	98	135	233
February 28	2	3	0					1		1	100	136	236
March 31	1	7	3	5	1	1				1	97	136	233
April 30	10	3	1	2					1	1	105	136	241
May 31	2	13		2		1		1			107	145	252
	44	63	17	31	5	6	4	3	11	8	107	145	
	107		48		11		7		19		252		

At the termination of last year, there were under treatment 230 patients. Since that period, 107 patients have been admitted, shewing that during the year there have been under treatment 337 cases. During the same period, 66 have been discharged, and 19 have died, leaving under treatment on the 31st of May, 252 patients, of whom 107 are males, and 145 females.

The admissions this year are only two in excess of those of last. It is right to state, however, that from 8 to 10 have been rejected during the year for want of room. A few also have been discharged for special reasons, otherwise the admissions would have been about 120. It will be observed the numbers at present in the house are greater than on any former occasion. This is accounted for from the changes in arrangement which were introduced two months ago on leaving the new dwelling-

house, these changes having enabled us not only to accommodate the whole of the patients therein contained, but a few more. The number 252 is however slightly in excess of the capacity of the house, owing to an unusual demand from the immediate neighbourhood during the two preceding months. The preponderance of females is still visible in the admissions, the number of females 63 being precisely the same as last year, while there is an addition of two made to the males, who are this year 44. The largest number admitted in a month was 15 in May, of whom no less than 13 were females, hence our temporary excess in numbers. Only five were admitted in each of the months of June, November, January, and February. The admissions over the year are at the rate of nine per month.

Table I.—Shewing the Ages of Patients on admission.

	Males.	Females.
11 years	0	1
15 „	0	1
16 „	0	2
17 „	1	0
18 „	1	2
19 „	0	2
20 to 30 „	10	13
30 to 40 „	14	15
40 to 50 „	9	7
50 to 60 „	6	8
60 to 70 „	2	12
74 „	1	0
	44	63—107

An unusually large proportion of patients between the ages of 10 to 20 is observable, viz., two males and eight females. Last year, with the same number of admissions, there were three males and one female.

Table II.—Shewing the number of Attacks previous to admission.

	Males.	Females.
1st attack.....	25	34
2d do.	7	11
3d do.	3	7
4th do.	4	3
Not known	5	8
	44	63—107

The number of first attacks seems proportionately large. It includes many cases in which the recovery was not complete, as for example of patients removed from asylums and returned

within a short period. This unfortunate habit still prevails among relations to a very large extent, the removal of the patient against medical advice. Many such cases have been admitted during the year who have been so removed from other asylums as well as our own. A case received a few weeks ago was discharged from another asylum only three days before admission. Two cases removed from our own within the last few months, were returned within three weeks and a week.

Table III.—Shewing the time intervening between the incursion of Insanity and the Admission of the Patient.

	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
65 years.....	0	1	3 years.....	1	1
34 „	1	0	2 „	3	2
30 „	0	1	1 „	7	7
23 „	1	0	8 months	1	3
17 „	1	0	6 „	1	1
16 „	0	2	5 „	0	2
11 „	1	1	4 „	6	5
8 „	2	1	3 „	1	7
7 „	0	1	2 „	4	8
6 „	1	0	1 „	9	11
5 „	0	2	Not known	2	5
4 „	2	2			
				44	63—107

There is still sufficient evidence from this table of the injury which patients sustain from not being placed at the proper period under the treatment of an asylum, or even under medical care. This is shewn by the fact that upwards of one-third of the patients admitted were labouring under the disease for periods of from one to sixty-five years before admission. It is also more painfully indicated by several individual cases whose recovery would have been most hopeful, but for this neglect.

Table IV.—Shewing the form of disease under which the Patients laboured on Admission.

	Males.	Females.
Acute Mania	8	11
Chronic do.	15	15
Epileptic	2	0
Puerperal	0	5
Melancholia	4	10
Imbecility	4	7
Dementia	2	1
Monomania Vanity	0	2
Do. Superstition	0	2
Dipsomania	3	6
General Paralysis.....	3	0
Hysteria Mania	1	0
Not known	2	4
	44	63—107

The proportion of chronic cases to acute is greater than last year. It contains however a number of periodical cases, in which the disease assumes alternately the acute and chronic forms. Fewer epileptics, but a much larger number of idiots and imbeciles have been received. In dipsomania it is not attempted to determine whether drinking may not be the effect rather than the cause of the disease. Wherever any other cause has been indicated, the case has been excluded from the list. It will be observed from the table, that under this heading the number of females is double that of males. This does not seem difficult to account for. Drinking in the female is concealed till it has fairly overpowered its victim. It then at once becomes an obvious feature in the character of the case, while in the male it is so common a vice, that its connection with disease, bodily or mental, is scarcely at all suspected or appreciated.

Table V.—Shewing the Causes of Disease of those admitted.

	Males.	Females.
Not known	19	29
Physical Disease	7	3
Injury to head	1	0
Fever	3	1
Puerperal Condition	0	5
Congenital Deficiency	3	3
Drinking	5	7
Opium Eating	1	0
Grief on illness or death of relations	2	5
Disappointed affections	0	3
Fright	0	4
Over Study.....	2	0
Unsuccessful in business	1	0
Bad treatment of husband.....	0	1
Religious doubts.....	0	2
	44	63—107

This table is confessedly imperfect, as all such tables are. Many of the assumed causes are in fact effects of the disease, while many more have no essential connection with it, being merely accidentally associated diseases or conditions.

Epilepsy was ascertained in two males, congenital deficiency in three males and three females, suicidal tendency in four males and fifteen females, hereditary tendency in thirteen males and fifteen females.

The whole number discharged this year is 66, of whom 48 are cured, 11 improved, and seven unimproved. The improved and unimproved, in all 18 patients, of whom nine are males and nine females, were removed by friends, or sent to other asylums, poor houses, &c.

The cured, 48 in number, of whom 17 are males, and 31 females, are slightly in excess of last year, when there were 43; the admissions last year being 105, this year 107. The cases are about 45 per cent on the admissions.

Table VI.—Shewing the Ages of those Cured.

	Males.	Females.
16 years	0	1
19 „	0	1
20 to 30 „	3	8
30 to 40 „	5	6
40 to 50 „	3	3
50 to 60 „	5	7
60 to 70 „	0	5
74 „	1	0
	17	31—48

The large proportion of cases at advanced ages is worthy of notice—from 50 to 60, twelve are cured; 60 to 70, five; and one at 74. Many of those patients, however, after a longer or shorter residence in the house, becoming fitted for the duties of life, are sent out to the world only to return again, a process which is frequently repeated many times over, during the life of the patient.

Table VII.—Shewing the Time they were under Treatment.

	Males,	Females:
2 months	1	2
3 „	3	1
4 „	2	2
5 „	3	5
6 „	1	3
7 „	1	2
8 „	0	4
9 „	1	1
10 „	0	1
11 „	0	1
1 year	3	4
1½ „	1	2
2 „	1	3
	17	31—48

The extreme periods of time during which the cured patients were under treatment, were two months and two years. No less than 14 of the number were cured after a residence of one year or more, proving the propriety of the oft-repeated statement, that no case should be despaired of.

Table VIII.—Indicating the form of Disease of those Cured.

	Males.	Females.
Acute Mania	7	20
Chronic Mania	7	5
Puerperal Mania.....	0	4
Dipsomania.....	1	1
Melancholia	1	1
Epileptic Mania	1	0
	17	31—48

That the mortality in a large asylum varies very much from year to year is well known. The causes which determine that variation are often obscure and frequently beyond control. It is always gratifying, nevertheless, to be able to announce a diminution in the number of deaths. This year they are 19, to 28 last year. The per centage on the numbers under treatment during the year is fully $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., last year it was $8\frac{3}{4}$. There has been no epidemic in the house during the year, or other conditions to indicate that the house was not at its usual healthy point. Recently a contagious skin disease was unfortunately introduced by a patient, which soon spread to some of her companions. The sufferers are now isolated and under special treatment, and it is hoped it will soon be eradicated.

Table I.—Shewing the time the Patients who died had been in the house.

	Males.	Females.
15 years.....	1	0
14 „	0	1
6 „	1	1
5 „	1	0
4 „	0	1
3 „	3	0
2 „	0	2
1 „	2	1
3 months.....	2	2
$2\frac{1}{2}$ „	1	0
	11	8—19

From the above table it will be seen that two patients had been respectively 15 and 14 years in the house. Twelve had been inhabitants for periods of from one to six years, and five for three months or under. These five cases were hopeless on admission, either from the advanced stage of the disease, or more frequently from complications.

Table II.—Shewing the ages of those who have died.

	Males.	Females.
64 years.....	0	1
63 „	1	0
60 „	1	2
59 „	0	1
57 „	0	1
50 „	1	0
48 „	1	0
46 „	2	0
37 „	1	0
34 „	0	2
27 „	1	0
25 „	1	0
23 „	0	1
22 „	1	0
21 „	1	0
	11	8—19

Table III.—Shewing the form of disease.

	Males.	Females.
Acute Mania	1	1
Chronic Mania	4	3
Melancholia	0	1
Imbecility	3	2
General Paralysis	1	0
Epileptic Mania.....	2	1
	11	8—19

Table IV.—Shewing the cause of death.

	Males.	Females.
Consumption	1	1
Bronchis percussio	2	0
Apoplexy	1	1
General Exhaustion	1	3
General Paralysis	1	0
Diabetis	1	0
	1	0
Dysentry	0	2
Epileptic Exhaustion	1	1
	1	0
Gastric Fever	1	0
	11	8—19

RESTRAINTS—During the year no case has been under restraint properly so called. In a former report a lightly fitting apparatus was described as applied to a female patient, by means

of which she was confined within certain limits to a padded chair, in order to prevent a persistent determination to knock her head against every hard object that could be reached. This same chair and apparatus were employed lately for some weeks in the treatment of a male patient. This patient was an imbecile, but with an impulsive tendency to throw himself suddenly on the floor or against any object that might stand in the way. This movement was often so sudden, that even the constant surveillance of an attendant was insufficient to prevent injury being done. It may be stated in explanation, not in justification, that the patient scarcely exercised any other voluntary motion than that alluded to, and as his mental condition excluded the thought of conscious degradation, to him the restraint, if it is to be so called, was no restraint. Happily the tendency wore off, and rendered its employment no longer necessary.

Voluntary restraint has been talked of, that is, in some cases patients are said to demand its application in self-protection. A good example of this occurs in a female patient. This patient, in general quiet, rational, and industrious, though in delicate health, is liable to occasional maniacal paroxysms which last for days or weeks, as the case may be. The prominent symptoms are extreme restlessness, timidity, with a sense of impending danger or death, and an impulsive and irresistible tendency to self-injury or self-destruction. When the paroxysm is coming on, she earnestly entreats the use of the straight jacket, or other similar appliance, to aid her in resisting the terrible impulse. The presence of the attendant affords her comparatively little relief, the impossibility only of accomplishing her desired, yet dreaded purpose, alone inspires her with self-confidence, and thereby mitigates the paroxysm. On one occasion, the straight jacket, the only one in the house, was applied, but was found not to fit, and consequently abandoned. In one of her recent attacks, her hands were tied with a handkerchief, which gave great though not complete relief, a more powerful and efficient appliance being demanded. Within the last few days the straight jacket has been altered and fitted to the patient, and applied at her own urgent request. That the patient derives relief from it cannot be questioned. She refuses to allow its removal till the paroxysm is over, and even then with difficulty. It appears to have been used before she came to the house, which may possibly explain her preference for it.

Our religious services continue to be performed in the same quiet and unostentatious manner as heretofore. Our new Chaplain performs his duties with zeal, ability, and success. The numbers attending chapel are limited by the size of the room.

A number of convalescent and quiet patients, both pauper and private, attend their respective churches in town.

Our reading, writing, and fancy-work classes continue open daily. A class for dancing and deportment has been opened lately, under the management of the superintendent of the male side, which is attended chiefly by the younger branches of the family. This is in addition to our infant weekly ball, which has been many years in existence.

Our Museum, though by no means pretentious in its character, is improving in appearance daily, and gives fair promise of becoming in due time an important, as it is already a useful adjunct of treatment.

Our Library is renewing its youth, upwards of 100 volumes have been added to it during the year, the greater portion of them being contributions from two warm friends to the Institution.

Our Conservatory has also been greatly enriched by the liberality of a lady from the south of England. The orange tree in fruit, the coffee plant, the sugar cane, the green and black tea, and a number of others, rare and interesting, have been contributed by her.

Our pic-nics, soirees, balls, games, concerts, and lectures, proceed with their usual vigor and variety. Our instruction and amusement list for 1857, contains 22 lectures and nine concerts.

In addition to these, however, concerts, lectures, and other sources of amusement and instruction are attended in town occasionally, both by private and pauper patients.

The industrious portion of our population are busy as ever, their activities limited only by the want of ground, workshops, tools, and materials, these and other wants will soon be supplied by the completion of the New Asylum. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, the following work lists are anything but testimonies to idleness.

Work done in the Workshops during the year ending 31st May, 1857.

	Made.	Repaired.		Made.	Repaired.
Coats	4	154	Hair Mattresses	15	
Jackets	22	390	Straw do.	8	
Vests	47	576	Oakum picked	12 cwt.	
Trowsers	44	1086	Wooden beds.....	15	220
Canvas Dresses.....	3	32	Barrows.....	5	37
Braces, pairs	40	73	Chairs	3	131
Stocks	2	121	Doors.....	11	208
Sheep Nets	4		Tables	4	31
Salmon Nets.....	98		Picture Frames.....	29	11
Boots	2	12	Windows	9	220
Shoes	4	174	Locks put on.....	14	286
Slippers	40	204	Panes of Glass	478	

	Made.	Repaired.		Made.	Repaired.
Swinging Poles.....	2		Pot Lids	3	2
Skittle Board.....	1		Night Chairs.....	1	1
Desk for a Ligrest....	1	1	Meat Trays ...	2	15
Floors.....		21	Presses	1	6
Mantle-piece		1	Small Boxes ...	8	1
Window Shutters	1	21	Bagatelle Covers	3	
Window Rollers	9		Foot Stool	1	
Book Cases	2	1	Table Drawers ...	2	
Netting Needles and			Grates		3
Gauges	36		Forms	12	4
Ironing Board	1		Ladders	1	2
Sofas		2	Brush handles	20	
Beds Painted.....	12		Rooms papered	2	24
Windows do.....	5		Do. partition.....	1	altered 12
Rooms do.....	2		Stereoscope Box	1	
Drying Horses		3	Fire Boards	2	
Spring Bagatelle Board	1		Oakum House	1	
Golf Clubs	3		Potatoe do.	1	
Pigs Troughs	5	3	Upright Pailing	200 yards	
Trunks	1	7	Water Closets		36
Coal Boxes.....	19	47	Stairs.....		5
Glass Cases	2		Carpets laid	16	
Paralytic Chairs	3		Billiard Cues.....		26

Articles made and repaired during the year ending 31st May, 1857.

	Made.	Repaired.		Made.	Repaired.
Bed-covers hemmed ...	29	117	Towels hemmed	224	
Bed Ticks ...	79	107	Bath-room do.	29	
Blankets hemmed.....	200 pairs	135	Pair Drawers.....	84	295
Sheets do.	206	418	Stocks	108	
Pillows	155	53	Table Covers.....	9	3
Pillow Cases	367	504	Window Blinds.....	24	12
Shirts	202	889	Bonnets trimmed	53	
Shifts.....	150	612	Carpets	3	16
Petticoats	117	472	Quilted Cloths	239	
Stockings knitted.....	296 pairs	179	Canvas Dresses.....	10	9
Stays.....	22	64	Day Gowns	177	
Flannel Shirts	354	1565	Mattress Covers	23	
Day Caps	350	720	Slippers Bound	40 pairs	
Aprons	346	449	Bed Gowns ...	57	123
Handkerchiefs hemmed	511	328	Night Caps	83	119

In our treatment there is nothing special. It might be designated rather dietetic than medicinal. So very large a proportion of the patients on admission are in a state of low vitality, that almost the whole of them are placed for longer or shorter periods on special diet. This varies in its character to suit the case, but consists generally of nutritious soups, with an abundant supply of animal food, and beef tea between meals. In many cases a fourth meal is added at ten p.m. frequently consisting of porridge and milk, the usual diet of the district, new milk being substituted where nutrition is specially important. This we have found from experience a much more efficacious sleep-producing agent than many in more common use. In some

cases of periodical mania, where the paroxysms frequently recur, this fourth meal is given permanently. This differs entirely from the strictly medical diet which is prescribed in certain forms or stages of the disease or its complications.

Very material additions have been made to the ordinary diet of the patients, each having animal food four times a week, viz. beef, mutton, pork, and fish, in rotation. That this greatly increased liberality in diet, has contributed to the health, comfort, and cure of the patients, cannot for a moment be doubted.

J. GILCHRIST.

ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,
31st June, 1857.

EXTRA REPORT AS TO COMMISSION.

The House Committee, in terms of the remit made to them by the Board of Management at the annual meeting having considered the special report drawn up by the Medical Superintendent at the request of the Committee, relative to the report of the Commissioners of Lunacy, present the following as its substance :

That the demand for admission had greatly increased, and that consequently the patients had accumulated to a greater extent than existing provision warranted or could be made with sufficient facility to meet occasional wants. That the attendants were especially defficient; that from that cause and others there had accumulated a large number of patients inattentive to cleanliness; that the means for the classification and treatment of the patients generally were very defective, and that especially proper provision for the treatment of the worst class, was almost entirely wanting.

That while these acknowledged evils were being remedied a plan was proposed by building an addition to each side of the house to remedy the worst of them, the non-provision for refractory cases. That this plan was after due consideration, rejected by the Managers they having decided that a New Asylum on a new site was necessary, that consequently this plan and other less important perhaps, but not less expensive, were abandoned, leaving especially the worst class of patients in an unsatisfactory condition.

That, as the Medical Superintendent states, notwithstand-

ing the determination of the Directors to build a New Asylum, which is rapidly progressing, all reasonable demands for the means of improvement have been granted, with the exception noticed, and some others which, from the defective construction of the house, are irremediable. That the attendants have been largely increased, there being now one to 16 patients—that the day-rooms, for the purpose of classification, have been increased from nine to thirteen—that all the improved arrangements with reference to bed, bedding, and clothing for the dirty and refractory patients have been made, securing the persons of such patients from cold or exposure—that since an adequate supply of attendants was obtained, the number of dirty patients have been lessened by one half—that the numbers secluded, and the periods of seclusion, have been reduced to a minimum—that a few who could not possibly associate with the other patients in the common day-room, and who consequently were exposed to prolonged seclusion, have been from time to time discharged.

In short, it is believed that the commendation given by the Commissioners to the patients in general, might now with equal propriety be extended to the excepted class, notwithstanding the acknowledged deficiencies of a house pronounced no longer fit for its original purpose, especially with respect to this class.

Two important, but no doubt accidental, mistakes made by the Commissioners, require to be pointed out.

They state that the seclusion cells have stone floors. These floors are of wood—there being no stone floors in the house except that mentioned in another part of their report, on the male side.

They state also that the secluded patients were out of a population of 174, the report shewing that there were 227 in the house on the day of the Commissioners' visit.

Report of the House Committee.

YOUR Committee have to report that, during the past year, various improvements have been introduced, in order to increase the dormitory and other accommodation, and also to ameliorate the system of clothing, to which the exception of Montrose parish providing its own clothing, now discontinued, presented

an obstacle. Thus a uniform system of clothing has been introduced into the house, totally superseding, so far as regards pauper lunatics, any individual interference. In consequence of these and other arrangements, the Committee are satisfied that, in regard to clothing, dietary, and sleeping accommodation, the institution, notwithstanding the inadequacy of the building, is in as perfect a state as the average of the Chartered Asylums in Scotland. The cells or apartments for violent patients have been rendered as comfortable as the structure of the buildings, and the unfortunate circumstances of the the occupants, admit of. Hitherto it has not been the practice to refuse admission to patients exhibiting symptoms of extreme violence; but the committee would recommend that patients of this character should not be admitted, and that even some of the more violent cases should be removed, until better accommodation can be afforded. Moreover, the Committee would recommend that on no account should the present number of patients in the Asylum be exceeded. In regard to the recent report of the Royal Lunacy Commissioners, the Committee have iustructed Dr. Gilchrist to prepare observations, which will be submitted along with this report.

Your Committee have made their usual weekly visits to the house during the past year; and, without any previous notice, they, accompanied by the Secretary, made a special visit to the Asylum, at the early hour of ten o'clock, on the morning of the 4th instant. On this occasion, the Committee saw every patient (with the exception of one in a state of extreme excitement) and found the whole arrangements in a very satisfactory state. The Committee do not think it requisite to enter into details, and for which they rather refer to the medical report for the year. The usual means of recreation and amusement, and also of the occupation of the patients, have been continued during the year; and the Committee have to renew their testimony to the zeal and attention of Dr. Gilchrist, and his assistant Mr. Cowan, and to the efficient services of Mrs. Wright and Mr. Niddrie, in their respective departments.

D. MACKIE,

Chairman of House Committee.

Report of the Royal Infirmary and Dispensary,

For the Year ending 31st May, 1857.

Two additional tables to those usually presented have been drawn up from the register of cases treated in the Infirmary, the one shewing the occupations of the patients, and the other the proportions in which the great divisions of human existence have been represented by them throughout the year. From the former of these tables, No. V., it will be seen that while almost all the ordinary trades and occupations have contributed patients to the institution, a very large proportion, between a third and a fourth of the entire number, have been individuals employed at the public works in our town. While patients of all ages have been under treatment, from mere children to upwards of fourscore years, a glance at the latter of the two tables referred to, No. VI., will show that more than a half of all the admissions throughout the year, have been of persons between 20 and 50 years of age, or of those in the prime of life, and to whom consequently the advantages of such an institution as the Infirmary are of the most urgent importance.

A reference to table No. II. will shew a much smaller amount of fever and contagious disease generally than during either the last or preceding year, and this accounts for the number of admissions for this year being fewer than during some previous years. Indeed, it may be stated here that this neighbourhood has been more free from epidemic disease of every kind during the year just ended than for many former seasons. The only other feature to which allusion may be made, is the number of foreign sailors who receive the benefits of the Infirmary, more than half the number of seamen admitted being foreigners, natives of Norway, Prussia, Mecklenburgh, and Spain.

Every operation has been attended with success.

It only remains to be noticed that Dr. Lawrence continues to give his assistance with his usual efficiency and acceptableness to all connected with this very useful institution.

DAVID JOHNSTON, M.D.

Table I.—Shewing the General Results of the Year.

	M.	F.	Total.
1st June, 1856.—Remained in house	16	7	23
Admitted during the year ...	141	129	270
	157	136	293
	M.	F.	Total.
Discharged cured	134	109	243
„ improved ...	9	7	16
„ incurable ...	1	2	3
„ unfit	2	4	6
„ dead	5	8	13
„ left	2	0	2
	153	130	283
1st June, 1857.—Remained in house	4	6	10

Table II—Classification of Diseases under which the patients laboured when admitted into the Infirmary.

	M.	F.	Total.
Fever	8	10	18
Scarlatina	2	5	7
Ulcers and Abscesses	11	10	21
Wounds and Injuries	18	9	27
Diseases of Digestive Organs	18	16	34
„ Skin	9	8	17
„ Organs of Generation ...	11	13	24
„ Nervous System	8	6	14
„ Bones and Joints	15	21	36
„ Urinary Organs	7	0	7
„ Respiratory Organs	12	15	27
„ Eye	1	7	8
„ Heart	3	2	5
Rheumatism	18	7	25
Fractures	6	1	7
Tumours and Malignant Sores	2	5	7
Burns	4	1	5
Dropsies	2	2	4
	155	138	293

Table III.—Operations performed during the year.

	M.	F.	Total.
Strangulated Hernia	0	1	1
Removal of Tumours	1	1	2
Hydrocele	2	0	2
Lithotomy	1	0	1
Amputation of Ankle Joint	1	0	1
„ Thigh	0	1	1
„ Finger	1	0	1
Dislocation of Shoulder	2	1	3
Removal of Cancer of Breast.....	0	1	1
	8	5	13

Table IV.—Causes of Death in thirteen fatal cases.

	M.	F.	Total.
Fever	0	3	3
Burns	1	1	2
Disease of Kidney	1	0	1
Spinal Disease.....	0	1	1
Pleuritis	0	1	1
Bronchitis	2	0	2
Delirium Tremens	1	0	1
Scarlatina.....	0	1	1
Abscess of Kidney	1	0	1
	6	7	13

Table V.—Shewing the Occupations of 270 patients admitted into the Infirmary during the year.

Millworkers	72
Labourers	46
At School	17
Unemployed	16
Sailors	16
Domestic Servants	16
Mothers and Housewives.....	12
Weavers	10
Fishers and Cadgers.....	9
Farm Servants	9
Pedlars and Hawkers	8
Flaxdressers	6
Children.....	6
Shoemakers	4
Blacksmiths	3
Butchers.....	3
Tin and Copper Smiths	3
Wrights, 3 ; Tailors, 2.....	5
Coopers, 2 ; Mason, 1	3
Chimney Sweep, 1 ; Plasterer, 1.....	2
Seamstress, 1 ; Stable Boy, 1	2
Artillerymen	2
	270

Table VI.—Shewing the ages of the 270 patients admitted into the Infirmary during the year.

Patients under 20 years of age	74
„ between 20 and 50	145
„ above 50	51
	270

Table VII.—Report of the Patients treated at the Dispensary and at their own houses.

1856	June	83
	July	91
	August	81
	September	79
	October	60
	November	64
	December	75
1857	January	85
	February	65
	March.....	78
	April	76
	May	76
Total.....		913

Report of the Infirmary Committee.

THE Committee, in submitting their annual report, have the gratification of stating that the receipts have been satisfactory, partly owing to the good feeling and exertions of the working classes, who have contributed £63 9s. 9d. during the year. The sum of £150 was voted from the general fund at the last annual meeting of the Asylum, in addition to which there has been received from churches and parish boards, £88 12s.; private individuals, £126 10s.; banks and millowners, £28 7s.; concerts, £63 9s. 9d.; police fines, £8 15s.; total, £315 13s. 9d. A legacy of £50 has also been received from the trustees of the late Mrs. C. Lyall, Montrose. As the Infirmary has never yet been able to meet its current expenses, although it has on the whole been liberally supported by the public, who fully appreciate its extensive utility, the Committee, with the consent of the last meeting of the Managers of the Asylum, have made application to the Trustees of the late John Ferguson, Esq. of Cairnbrock, for a contribution from the funds of that gentleman left for beneficent purposes, and which they hope will be successful. The number of patients admitted into the Infirmary, is, by a rather singular coincidence, the same as in the year preceding; the expenditure being also about the same. The Committee have held their regular weekly meetings, and have always found the Establishment in good order, and the patients well attended to.

ROB. MILLAR,

Chairman of the Infirmary Committee.

Donations to the Montrose Infirmary,

For the Year ended 1st June, 1857.

PUBLIC BODIES, BANKS, AND MILLOWNERS.

The Montrose Royal Lunatic Asylum	-	-	-	-	£150	0	0
Messrs. Aberdeen, Gordon, & Co., Montrose	-	-	-	-	5	5	0
„ Richards & Co. do.	-	-	-	-	5	5	0
The Bank of Scotland	-	-	-	-	3	3	0
The National Bank of Scotland	-	-	-	-	3	3	0
Messrs. J. & G. Paton, Montrose	-	-	-	-	5	5	0
The British Linen Company	-	-	-	-	3	3	0
The Hatton Spinning Mill, Kinnell	-	-	-	-	1	8	8
The Haugh do. do.	-	-	-	-	0	5	0
The Western Bank of Scotland	-	-	-	-	3	3	0
							£180 0 8

POLICE FINES.

Moiety of a Fine, per Superintendent	-	-	-	-	0	12	6
Do. do.	-	-	-	-	0	12	6
Do. do.	-	-	-	-	2	12	6
Do. do.	-	-	-	-	0	12	6
Do. do.	-	-	-	-	2	10	0
Do. do.	-	-	-	-	1	15	0
							£8 15 0

CONCERTS BY WORKERS AT PUBLIC WORKS.

The Flaxdressers of Messrs Richards & Co's. Works	-	-	-	-	£7	7	0
The Linen Workers do. do.	-	-	-	-	12	13	8
The Workmen of the Montrose Foundry Co.	-	-	-	-	4	11	0
Do. of the Links Foundry Co.	-	-	-	-	5	10	0
The Workers at Commerce Street Spinning Mill	-	-	-	-	7	0	0
Do. at Messrs J. & G. Paton's do.	-	-	-	-	15	0	0
Do. at Messrs Aberdeen, Gordon, & Co. do.	-	-	-	-	11	8	1
							£63 9 9

PAROCHIAL AND CONGREGATIONAL.

The Kirk Session of Montrose	-	-	-	-	£15	0	0
The Parish of Benholm, per Rev. Mr Myers	-	-	-	-	11	4	6
The Kirk Session of Lunan	-	-	-	-	3	0	0
The Parish of Aberlemno	-	-	-	-	1	3	6
Do. of Careston, from a few Parishioners	-	-	-	-	2	2	0
Do. of Dun	-	-	-	-	3	1	6
Do. of Kinnell	-	-	-	-	4	7	1
The Parochial Board of Marykirk	-	-	-	-	3	0	0

Carry forward

£42 18 7 £252 5 5

	Brought forward	£42	18	7	£252	5	5
The Parish of Marykirk	- - - -	2	18	0			
The Parochial Board of Logie Pert	- - - -	5	0	0			
The Parish of Arbuthnott	- - - -	3	0	0			
The Parochial Board of Laurencekirk	- - - -	4	0	0			
The Parish of Maryton	- - - -	2	11	6			
Do. of Garvock	- - - -	3	10	3			
The Parochial Board of Fettercairn	- - - -	3	0	0			
Do. of Montrose	- - - -	15	0	0			
The Parish of Lethnott	- - - -	2	0	0			
The Johnshaven Free Church	- - - -	3	0	0			
		<hr/>			£86	18	4

INDIVIDUAL.

Messrs Alexander Cowie, Montrose	- - - -	£1	1	0			
Thomas Kerr, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
Joseph Johnston, do.	- - - -	1	0	0			
John Nicoll, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
Robert Cowie, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
George Neill, Borrowfield	- - - -	1	1	0			
John Duncan, Esq., of Parkhill	- - - -	2	2	0			
Mrs. Duncan, Sen., of Parkhill, Edinburgh	- - - -	2	0	0			
Barron Grahame, Esq., of Morphie	- - - -	2	2	0			
Sir Thomas Gladstone of Fasque, Bart	- - - -	5	0	0			
Messrs Robert Trail, Aberlady Lodge	- - - -	1	1	0			
John Aberdein, Montrose	- - - -	1	1	0			
Archibald Foote, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
Francis Aberdein, do.	- - - -	0	10	6			
John Gordon, do.	- - - -	0	10	6			
William Jameson, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
David Walker, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
John Boyd, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
James Smith, R.N. do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
Mrs. Thomas Whyte do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
J.—L.— Esq.	- - - -	1	1	0			
Mrs. William Gordon do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
Misses Renny, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
Messrs James Beattie, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
John Guthrie, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
Charles Brand, do.	- - - -	1	0	0			
David Smith, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
James Henderson, do.	- - - -	1	1	0			
The Right Hon. Lord F. G. Haliburton	- - - -	2	2	0			
David Lyall, Esq. of Gallery	- - - -	1	0	0			
George Smart, Esq. of Cairnbank	- - - -	2	0	0			
Mrs. Alexander Valentine, Montrose	- - - -	1	1	0			
Messrs James Salmond, Newbigging	- - - -	1	1	0			
Alexander Watt, Montrose	- - - -	1	0	0			
Robert Cooke do.	- - - -	1	0	0			
Mrs. Keith of Usan, Langley Park	- - - -	1	11	6			
James Inverarity, Esq. of Rosemount	- - - -	2	0	0			
Adam Norrie, Esq., of New York	- - - -	20	0	0			
Mrs. George Paton, Montrose	- - - -	1	1	0			
Messrs William Beattie, do.	. . . .	1	0	0			
Robert Millar do.	. . . .	1	1	0			
C. H. Millar, do.	. . . .	1	1	0			
		<hr/>			£72	3	6
Carry forward					£339	3	9

	Brought Forward	£72	3	6	£339	3	9
Messrs Edward Millar, Montrose	.	1	1	0			
William Millar, London	.	1	1	0			
R. H. Arkley, Dunninald	.	2	0	0			
Mrs. Arkley, Inchbrayock	.	2	0	0			
Miss Arkley, do.	.	2	0	0			
Miss Lyall, of Gardyne, Montrose	.	1	1	0			
Thomas Renny Tailyour, Esq., of Borrowfield	.	5	0	0			
A Friend at the Shore, Montrose	.	1	1	0			
Messrs David Edward, Mills of Morphie	.	1	0	0			
James Mudie, Montrose	.	1	1	0			
David Henderson, do.	.	1	1	0			
Alex. Lindsay, do.	.	1	1	0			
Robert Walker, do.	.	1	1	0			
F. B. Paton, Turin House	.	1	0	0			
Thomas Moore, West Quay Montrose	.	0	10	0			
John Gordon, Esq of Charlton	.	2	2	0			
Alexander Porteous, Esq., of Lauriston	.	2	0	0			
Commander Lysaght Coast Guard	.	1	0	0			
Representatives of the late Mr. & Mrs. Rae	.	1	0	0			
Messrs W. S. Whimster, Montrose	.	1	0	0			
Thomas Barclay, do.	.	1	1	0			
The Misses Walker, do.	.	1	1	0			
Captain Macneill, do.	.	1	1	0			
Mrs. Captain Macneill, do.	.	1	1	0			
Miss Anne Shand do.	.	20	0	0			
Noah Harris, seaman	.	1	2	6			
					£126	10	0
					£465	13	9

LEGACIES.

From the late Mrs. Catherine Lyall of Montrose, £50, with 9s. 3d.							
of interest thereon	.	.	.	.	.	.	£50 9 3

(E. E.)

 DAVID HILL,
 GEORGE C. CHALMERS, } Joint Treasurers.

